

IN THE CLAIMS:

A complete listing of the claims and their status as of this Amendment is as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A device for hanging handbags and other items from tables and other structures, comprising:
a band which is U-shaped in an open position, of an elastically resilient material which comprises:
a first, extending limb which ends in a first end region, and
a second limb which is curved outward in a C-shaped manner and which ends in a second end region bent back into an inside of the U-shape, and
a connection arch connecting the first and second limbs,
the first and second end regions may be selectively spread apart and thus the band may be repeatedly closed into a ring and opened again,
wherein in a closed position, the second end region is led around the first end region and in this position presses from an outside against the first end region,
and wherein in the closed position, in a region of overlap between the second end region overlapping and the first end region in the closed position, and each end region having is in parallel to one another and each has a planar configuration that extends over the entire region of overlap a planar surface in a region of overlapping, and substantially parallel to one another in the closed position.
2. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 1, further comprising a layer formed on an inner side of the band consisting of a material with having a higher friction coefficient on a supporting surface compared to the elastically resilient material of the band.

3. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 1, further comprising a cover completely enveloping the band, the cover comprised of a material ~~with~~ having a higher friction coefficient on a support surface than steel.

4. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 3, wherein the cover comprises at least one of a flexible tubing and a bag extending over the band.

5. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 3, wherein the cover has a first closed end in a bag-like manner, and an oppositely lying second end comprising a bag opening, said bag opening being closed with a separate closure part.

6. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 5, wherein the closure part is comprised of at lest one of a metal clip and a plastic clip which encompasses an end edge of the second end region.

7. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 3, wherein the cover is formed by at least one of a coating and a peripheral casting of the elastically resilient material of the band.

8. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 3, further comprising decorations on the outer side of the cover.

9. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 3, wherein the cover on an inner side of the band consists of different material than the cover on an outer side of the band.

10. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 9, wherein on the inner side of the band, the cover is manufactured of at lest one of leather, imitation leather, plastic and textile fabric.

11. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 3, wherein on the outer side of the band, the cover is manufacture of at least one of leather, imitation leather, plastic and textile fabric.

12. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 1 further comprising, a first ~~communicating device~~ transmitter or receiver coupled to the band, which is equipped to communicate with a second ~~communicating device~~ transmitter or receiver that is separated from the band and which emits an alarm sound when the first transmitter or receiver and second transmitter or receiver ~~communicating devices~~ are separated a certain distance from each other.

13. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein the elastically resilient material comprises spring steel.

14. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 2, wherein the layer is comprised of at least one of rubber, soft plastic, imitation leather and leather.

15. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 3, wherein the cover is comprised of at least one of leather, plastic, textile fabric, and rubber.

16. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 7, wherein the covering is comprised of a peripheral injection molding with two-component plastic.

17. (Previously presented) The device of claim 8, wherein the decorations comprise at least one of gems, a print on the cover and a watch.